



# Durham

## Environmental Affairs Board

### M i n u t e s

May 24, 2005 • 6:00 p.m.  
Conference Room A  
Ground Floor, City Hall

### Approved Minutes

- Members Present:** Will Anderson, Sharon Beard, Rick Crume, Tim Dodge, Matthew Greenwolfe, Kathi Beratan, and Rochelle Araujo
- Members Absent:** Excused: Dock Terrell, Ahrash Bissell, and Bill Harnett
- Guests Present:** Robert Rosenthal, Tara Rice; Judy Kincaid, Ed Cox, and Valerie Everette, representing Durham Initiatives for Renewable Energy Community Taskforce (DIRECT)
- Staff Present:** Kathleen Snyder, Robert Brown, Glen Whistler, Doug Vaughan, and Vicki Westbrook.

### Call to Order/Minutes

Chairman Sharon Beard called meeting to order. The April 2005 meeting minutes were approved 7-0.

### Introductions

Everyone present introduced themselves and County Environmental Health Director, Robert Brown, gave a more detailed introduction discussing his department's role. His department operates as a division of the County Public Health Department and focuses on wells, septic systems, lead, and swimming pool inspections. He noted that there are approximately 4,500 sand filter septic systems still in use in Durham, and that these are considered insufficient. Some of the current sand filters users could connect to public sewer and DWQ requires this connection from time to time. The Environmental Health Department does not have an air quality function.

### Topics for Discussion

- 1. Air Quality Initiatives Report Status.** There is no new news on the air quality initiatives follow-up.
- 2. Results Based Accountability Status.** Kathi Beratan informed the Board that there are no new results based accountability news and provided a brief recap for the benefit of the new Board members. Kathleen Snyder will post drafts of the environmental group's report on the EAB website as possible.

3. **Greenhouse Gas Action Plan.** Another letter of support from the Board was sent to the City and County managers requesting funding for the Greenhouse Gas Plan update. Citizen Judy Kincaid came to meeting along with Ed Cox and Valerie Everette representing DIRECT to ask the Board to support a request of the City Managers to use the funds available to implement the existing 1999 Greenhouse Gas Action Plan rather than using the money to update the 1999 Plan. She acknowledged that this is contrary to her former position of supporting use of funds to update the Plan, but she felt, upon further thought, that the money should be used for implementation when available since the 1999 Plan is still viable. The Board discussed further to support Kincaid's request. Will Anderson wants Felix Nwoko to answer why the Plan is being updated before the Board decides to change course. Beratan expressed reservations about changing course based on the possibility of there being no money if the support for the update seems unsure. Robert Rosenthal said that an updated Plan may make a more convincing argument for change if the new Plan shows a worsening in air quality. DIRECT representative, Valerie Everett, said that the Million Solar Roofs program is working to get money using the cooperative extension office as a conduit. She asserted that some of the action items in the 1999 Plan are being enacted and the Board needs to know exactly what is being enacted from the 1999 Plan and what is not before making an informed decision. Rick Crume said the sales pitch for monies should be the cost-saving aspect of energy conservation. Matthew Greenwolfe moved that representatives from the Board meet with Felix Nwoko of the Transportation Department to further explore DIRECT's proposal and that the representative of the Board attend DIRECT's meeting with the City Manager. The Board approved this motion 7-0.
4. **2005-2006 EAB Draft Workplan Discussion.** Chairman Beard sees the draft work plan as a guiding document rather than a rigid step-by-step mandate. Vicki Westbrook said the Board would soon be dealing with the proposed legislation in the North Carolina House and Senate called the Drinking Water Reservoir Act which proposes new standards in water quality restrictions affecting Falls Lake and Jordan Lake. Ms. Westbrook and Doug Vaughan informed the Board that Durham will be hit particularly hard since it discharges into both lakes. The staff emphasized that there will be questions about the science and data behind the recommendations informing the state legislation and that staff will be taking a hard look at the legislation and formulating a response. The staff would like to have the EAB's input as to a response. Ms. Beard felt that the Board should address the quality of science issues in the proposed bills at the appropriate time. Rochelle Araujo thought that the Board should address the dealings holistically, looking at the science, the implications of science and other factors. The City and County are also working on a different water quality regulation called the Nutrient Management Strategy for Jordan Lake. Giving the upcoming focus on water quality issues, Ms. Beratan moved that the Board form a subcommittee to address water quality issues that would talk to the staff in depth and gather information about the issues. The motion was approved 7-0.

### **Announcements**

Ms. Westbrook announced that the lead and drinking water issues will come before the Board in the future. Chairman Beard announced that there are elections next month for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. She and Mr. Anderson agreed to be the Nominating Committee. Ms. Beard also announced that federal policies may limit her future Board participation given her job

at NIEHS. Mr. Greenwolfe announced that he has to miss June and July meetings and Ms. Beratan announced she was questionable for the June meeting.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:51 p.m. upon a 7-0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted  
Will Anderson, Secretary  
June 22, 2005